



State of Utah

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DWS News Release

For 9:00 a.m. Release

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: September 2006

Utah's number of non-farm wage and salaried jobs registered a strong year-over increase of 5.0 percent for September, 2006. Approximately 58,300 new jobs have been created in the Utah economy over the past year, raising total wage and salary employment in Utah to 1,226,500. Utah remains within the top five states nationwide for employment growth. Utah's August employment growth rate has been revised up to 4.8 percent.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate, registered 2.8 percent in September, down 1.5 percentage points from the unemployment rate of 4.3 percent registered a year ago in September, 2005. Approximately 36,600 Utahns were unemployed in September 2006 as compared to 55,200 in September 2005. August's unemployment rate is unrevised at 3.2 percent. The United States' unemployment rate dipped slightly to 4.6 percent in September.

Mark Knold, Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services commented, "Revisions to the second quarter data show that employment growth in Utah remained stronger than originally thought. That has prompted us to raise our current projections. Concerns about restrictions upon the employment growth rate due to a lack of workers appear to be premature, although I still see it as a potential issue. Somehow, some way the Utah economy continues to find an adequate number of workers to fuel an employment growth rate of 5.0 percent. It's surprising to see a labor market with an unemployment rate this low providing enough workers for the economy to grow at this pace. While net in-migration for 2006 is likely to meet or exceed last year's record pace, one still has to wonder if we are underestimating the flow of international workers to Utah, particularly those who migrate toward the construction industry."

Since September 2005, the United States' economy has added 1.7 million new jobs—a growth rate of 1.3 percent. The approximately 58,300 new jobs in Utah represent a growth rate of 5.0 percent, and that represents about 3.3 percent of all the new jobs added in the United States over the past year.

All employment sectors in Utah continue to add new jobs. This ranges from 14,700 new jobs in construction over the past year and 11,100 in professional and business services, to 1,100 new jobs in the information sector. Information, though growing, is still trying to shake off the overbuilding that led the U.S. into recession in the early 2000s. Overbuilding that occurred in the telecommunications sector could leave that industry flat for several more years. Data processing services employment is also down, reflecting a maturing in both how that industry operates, as well as stabilization in that industry's technologies.

Utah Labor Market Indicators September 2006

Employment Growth: 5.0%
Employment Increase: 58,300
Unemployment Rate: 2.8%

United States

Employment Growth: 1.3%
Unemployment Rate: 4.6%

Construction employment continues to increase, and it is growing at an increasing rate. For example, in January, the construction industry had grown by 16.5 percent, or 11,750 new jobs over the previous January. In September, employment is up 16.9 percent, representing 14,700 new jobs over the past year. Utah has never added this many new construction jobs over a one-year period. Also, construction employment is now over 100,000 positions in Utah—a level never achieved before this year. The current construction environment offers a great opportunity for beginners to learn a skill and establish a trade. Businesses are aggressive in their desire to hire, train, and advance new workers. The construction environment is poised to remain strong in Utah. There are many new construction projects proposed, highlighted by the LDS Church's recently announced plans for the renovation of several downtown Salt Lake City blocks—a multi-year project.

Another long-term factor favoring the construction industry is Utah's young population. Other than the 0 to 10 year olds, Utah's largest population group is the 20 to 30 year olds. That age group is just now beginning to form households, and will continue to do so over the next 10 to 15 years. That translates to a strong demand for more residential housing. Residential construction is the backbone of the Utah construction market.

Another industry growing at a rapid pace is trade, transportation, and utilities, which added 7,900 new jobs over the past year. As the name implies, this sector is a union of three industries. The largest is the trade segment, and it is currently the one adding the most new jobs, gaining 6,500 new positions over the past year. These employment gains are spread across a broad swath of retail activities, including wholesale trade, auto dealers, electronic stores, building material and garden stores, grocery stores, clothing stores, and general merchandise stores. All of these areas are expanding in response to population and income gains. In addition, nearly three-quarters of Utah's 29 counties are experiencing retail trade employment increases, illustrating the diversity of the current economic climate in Utah.

In that vein, when looking at the performance of the economies in Utah's 29 counties, all are showing employment gains. This doesn't happen very often and again illustrates the diversity of Utah's strong economic performance. You can't find a region in the state that is lagging because of poor employment numbers. Of particular note is the Uintah Basin and its current boom in the oil and gas industry. And it's not just employment gains in that industry alone. Employment gains in Duchesne and Uintah counties are seen in, but not limited to, construction, trade, transportation, financial activities, and professional and business services. Oil and gas leads the way, and its prosperity has a very broad reach.

Even what is arguably Utah's historically slowest economic region, the southeastern portion of the state is seeing strong employment gains. The coal industry is making a comeback in Carbon County. Coal and construction are fueling Emery County. Mining, construction, and tourism-related businesses are adding new workers in Grand County, and even normally quiet San Juan County is getting in on the act. Its growth rate of 4.7 percent is being driven by manufacturing, health care, and tourism.

Utah's October employment numbers will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

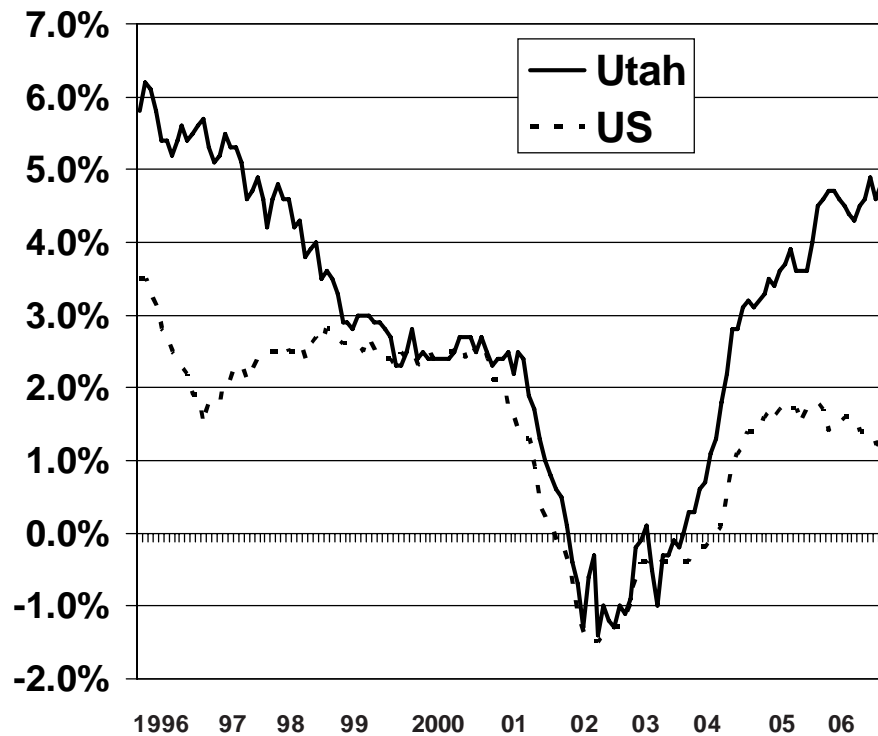
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Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

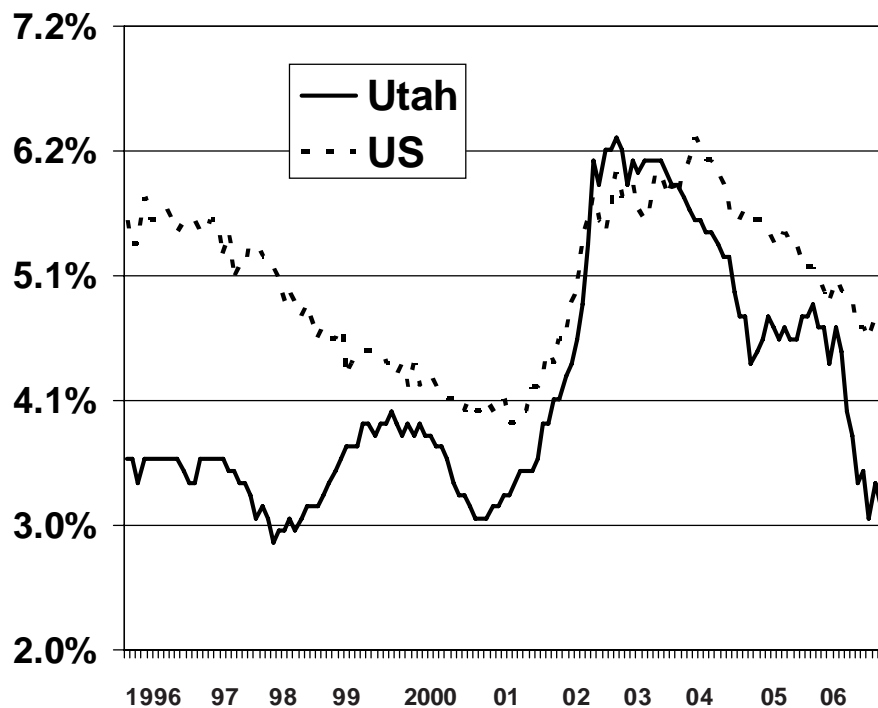
Numbers are in thousands and are <u>not seasonally adjusted.</u>	September(f) 2006	September 2005	Percentage Change	August(r) 2006	August 2005	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	1,317.9	1,285.9	2.5	1,325.3	1,277.9	3.7
Employed	1,284.1	1,235.4	3.9	1,280.5	1,224.2	4.6
Unemployed	33.8	50.5	-33.1	44.8	53.7	-16.6
Unemployment Rate	2.6	3.9		3.4	4.2	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,226.5	1,168.2	5.0	1,206.9	1,151.7	4.8
GOODS PRODUCING	235.4	214.9	9.6	233.9	214.4	9.1
Natural Resources, and Mining	10.6	9.0	17.5	10.5	8.9	17.6
Construction	102.3	87.6	16.9	101.2	87.0	16.3
Construction of Buildings	22.7	19.2	18.5	22.6	19.1	18.1
Heavy and Civil Engineering	10.3	9.1	13.7	10.3	9.0	
Specialty Trade Contractors	69.3	59.3	16.8	68.3	58.8	16.2
Manufacturing	122.5	118.3	3.6	122.3	118.5	3.2
Durable Goods	82.1	79.1	3.7	82.0	79.3	3.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	16.2	15.3	5.7	16.1	15.3	5.3
Computer and Electronic Products	11.1	10.9	1.7	11.1	11.0	1.3
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	14.4	14.3	0.6	14.5	14.4	0.6
Non-Durable Goods	40.4	39.2	3.2	40.3	39.2	2.8
Food Manufacturing	13.5	13.4	0.4	13.4	13.4	0.0
Printing and Related Support Activities	6.9	6.5	5.5	6.9	6.5	5.5
SERVICES PROVIDING	991.1	953.1	4.0	973.0	937.3	3.8
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	235.7	227.8	3.5	235.4	227.5	3.4
Wholesale Trade	45.5	43.7	4.0	45.3	43.6	3.9
Retail Trade	141.0	136.3	3.4	141.2	136.4	3.5
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	18.2	17.5	3.9	18.2	17.5	3.9
Food and Beverage Stores	23.2	22.4	3.3	23.2	22.5	3.4
General Merchandise Stores	26.8	26.3	2.0	26.7	26.2	1.8
Transportation and Utilities	49.3	47.8	3.1	48.8	47.5	2.8
Utilities	4.1	4.0	2.6	4.1	4.0	2.7
Transportation & Warehousing	45.3	43.9	3.1	44.8	43.6	2.8
Air Transportation	6.6	6.9	-3.3	6.6	6.8	-3.3
Truck Transportation	18.4	17.8	3.5	18.4	17.7	3.5
Information	34.0	32.9	3.4	34.0	33.1	2.8
Publishing Industries	9.4	9.2	1.7	9.4	9.3	1.7
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	4.8	5.0	-3.6	4.8	5.1	-6.4
Telecommunications	5.8	5.8	0.5	5.8	5.8	0.3
Internet Service Providers	8.1	8.3	-2.9	8.0	8.3	-2.9
Financial Activities	71.8	68.1	5.4	71.6	68.1	5.1
Finance and Insurance	54.0	51.7	4.4	53.7	51.5	4.3
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	17.8	16.5	8.4	17.9	16.6	7.7
Professional and Business Services	161.6	150.5	7.3	160.3	150.1	6.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	61.9	55.6	11.3	61.3	55.3	10.7
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	12.1	10.9	10.5	12.2	11.0	10.5
Computer Systems Design and Related	13.8	12.6	9.5	13.5	12.3	9.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	21.2	21.0	1.0	21.2	21.0	0.7
Administration & Support						
& Waste Management & Remediation	78.5	73.9	6.1	77.9	73.7	5.6
Employment Services	27.2	24.8	9.9	25.9	23.5	10.0
Business Support Services	16.7	16.6	0.7	17.2	17.1	0.5
Education and Health Services	136.2	130.7	4.2	131.1	125.8	4.2
Educational Services	31.2	29.6	5.5	26.9	25.5	5.8
Health Services and Social Assistance	105.0	101.1	3.8	104.2	100.3	3.8
Ambulatory Health Care Services	40.2	38.2	5.0	39.9	38.0	5.0
Hospitals	30.1	29.3	2.7	29.9	29.1	2.7
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	19.9	19.1	3.8	19.7	19.0	3.7
Social Assistance	14.8	14.4	3.1	14.6	14.2	3.0
Leisure and Hospitality	109.7	105.9	3.6	110.6	106.9	3.5
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	16.7	16.0	4.3	17.9	17.2	3.8
Accommodation and Food Services	93.0	89.8	3.5	92.8	89.7	3.4
Accommodation	17.8	17.1	3.9	18.3	17.6	3.7
Food Services and Drinking Places	75.2	72.7	3.4	74.5	72.1	3.4
Other Services	34.7	33.5	3.5	35.4	34.2	3.5
Government	207.4	203.7	1.8	194.6	191.7	1.5
Federal Government	36.4	35.7	1.8	36.7	36.2	1.6
Federal Defense	16.6	16.3	1.8	16.6	16.3	1.7
Other Federal Government	19.8	19.4	1.9	20.2	19.9	1.6
State Government	64.1	62.7	2.2	60.9	59.8	1.9
State Schools	35.6	34.7	2.6	32.4	31.7	2.0
Other State Government	28.5	28.0	1.7	28.6	28.1	1.7
Local Government	107.0	105.3	1.6	96.9	95.7	1.3
Local Education	60.2	59.7	0.9	50.4	49.9	1.1
Other Local Government	46.7	45.5	2.6	46.5	45.8	1.5

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services f = forecast r = revised October 17, 2006

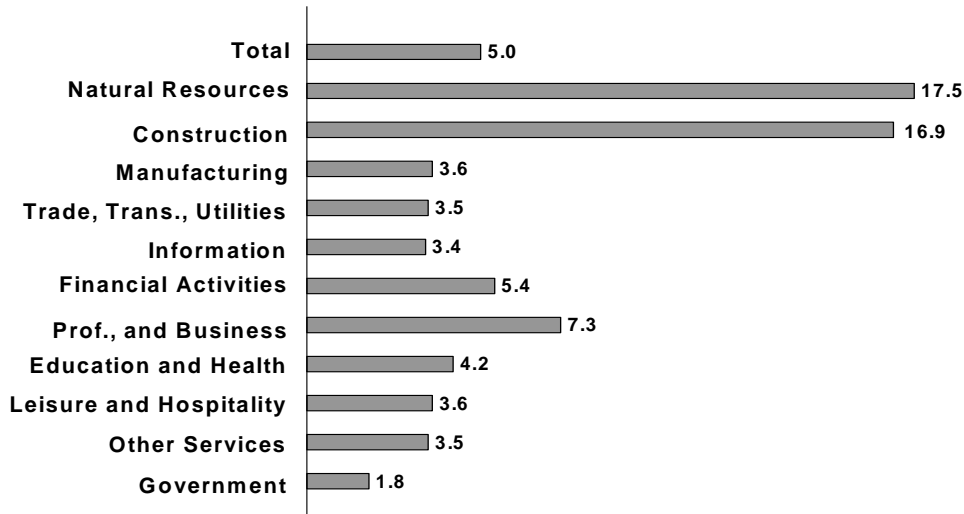
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

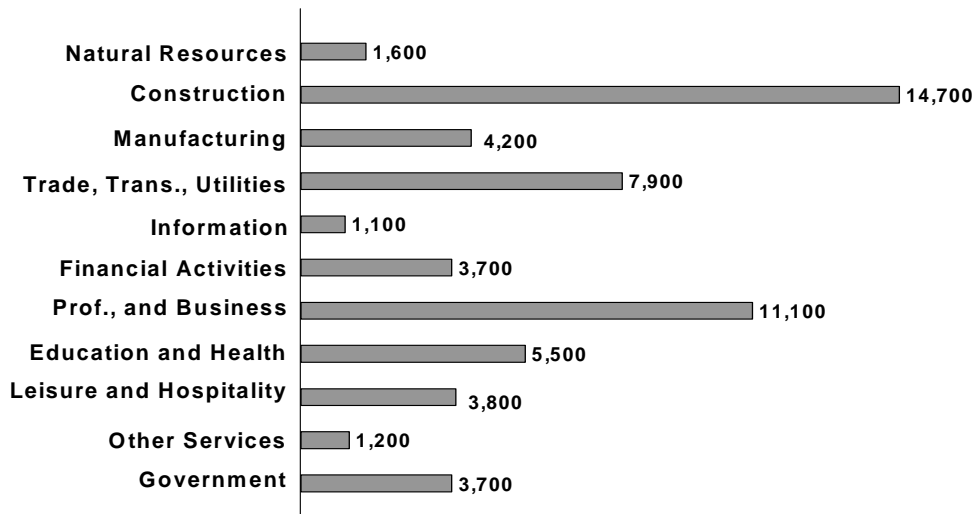


Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Percent Change) September 2005 – 2006



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Numeric Change) September 2005 – 2006



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	Sept. 2006(f)	Sept. 2005	Percent Change	Aug. 2006(r)	July 2006(r)
State Total	1,226,525	1,168,259	5.0	1,206,889	1,193,182
Bear River	69,661	67,372	3.4	66,774	65,339
Box Elder	20,522	19,449	5.5	19,919	19,741
Cache	48,238	47,165	2.3	45,849	44,600
Rich	901	758	18.9	1,006	998
Wasatch Front	801,575	767,509	4.4	796,577	789,055
North	198,618	190,921	4.0	197,560	195,509
Davis	101,619	97,634	4.1	100,742	99,425
Morgan	2,003	1,890	6.0	1,942	1,930
Weber	94,996	91,397	3.9	94,876	94,154
South	602,957	576,588	4.6	599,017	593,546
Salt Lake	587,851	562,148	4.6	584,208	578,787
Tooele	15,106	14,440	4.6	14,809	14,759
Mountainland	206,928	196,463	5.3	199,781	196,211
Summit	19,631	18,106	8.4	19,650	19,288
Utah	180,312	172,371	4.6	173,596	170,479
Wasatch	6,985	5,986	16.7	6,535	6,443
Central	24,920	23,545	5.8	23,909	23,793
Juab	3,729	3,167	17.8	3,770	3,767
Millard	3,974	3,901	1.9	3,909	3,892
Piute	330	310	6.4	328	355
Sanpete	7,489	7,305	2.5	6,641	6,617
Sevier	8,204	7,769	5.6	8,015	7,938
Wayne	1,193	1,093	9.2	1,246	1,224
Southwestern	78,739	72,827	8.1	76,140	75,588
Beaver	2,083	2,015	3.4	2,031	2,015
Garfield	2,704	2,653	1.9	2,740	2,723
Iron	17,777	16,330	8.9	16,014	15,897
Kane	3,525	3,217	9.6	3,616	3,574
Washington	52,650	48,612	8.3	51,739	51,378
Uintah Basin	21,377	18,703	14.3	20,621	20,397
Daggett	568	556	2.1	558	555
Duchesne	6,923	6,024	14.9	6,795	6,691
Uintah	13,886	12,123	14.5	13,267	13,152
Southeastern	23,326	21,840	6.8	23,088	22,800
Carbon	9,769	9,056	7.9	9,447	9,312
Emery	4,208	3,912	7.6	4,200	4,182
Grand	5,084	4,799	5.9	5,219	5,222
San Juan	4,265	4,073	4.7	4,221	4,084

f = forecast r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 10/17/06